

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 02236 040115Z

21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 102929

R 040025Z PAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9219

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2236

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS OF CHURCH LEADERS WITH
CODEL FRASER

1. DURING CODEL VISIT CONGRESSMAN FRASER HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS AND LUNCHEONS WITH RELIGIOUS LEADERS AT WHICH QUESTIONS OF INTERNAL SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND U.S. POLICY IN KOREA WERE DISCUSSED. THE REPLIES AND DISCUSSIONS WERE MAINLY REMARKABLE FOR THE RATHER UNIFORM RESPONSES ELICITED FROM THESE LEADERS OF THE ANTI-ROKG RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY.

2. AT A MARCH 31 LUNCHEON WITH FIVE KOREAN CHURCH LEADERS AND SIX AMERICAN CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT MISSIONARIES ARRANGED FOR CODEL BY HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER, CONGRESSMAN FRASER WAS TOLD OF GROWING RESENTMENT AGAINST ROKG SURVEILLANCE AND INTIMIDATION; NUMEROUS INTERANL POLITICAL BLUNDERS UNDERMINING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE AND PROVOKING OPPOSITION; AND GENERAL CONCERN THAT ROKG REFUSAL TO LISTEN TO OPPOSITION DEMANDS FOR MODIFICATION OF POLITICAL SITUATION WOULD LEAD TO STEADY EROSION OF PEOPLE'S LOYALTY AND DANGER OF EVENTUAL INTERNAL SECURITY CRISIS AND COLLAPSE, SIMILAR TO SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM. AMERICAN MISSIONARIES RAISED QUESTION OF WHAT THEY CONSIDERED CONTINUING UNQUALIFIED U.S. SUPPORT FOR PARK REGIME AND SEEMING BLINDNESS TO INTERNAL POLITICAL INSTABILITY OF COUNTRY. MAIN SPOKESMEN ON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 02236 040115Z

KOREAN SIDE WERE REV. KANG WAN-YONG OF ACADEMY HOUSE, REV. KANG MUN-CHO, CHAIRMAN YMCA, AND REV. CHON SONG-CHONG, CHAIRMAN OF CBS. SPOKESMEN ON US MISSIONARY SIDE WERE REVS. MATTHEWS AND POITRAS.

3. ON MORNING OF APRIL 1 CODEL CALLED ON CARDINAL KIM SU-HWAN AT HIS DIOCESAN OFFICE. CARDINAL TALKED ABOUT CHURCH CONCERN THAT PRESENT INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION COULD ERODE PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE IN ROKG LEADERSHIP AND THUS FACILITATE NORTH KOREAN SUBVERSION. THIS DANGER WAS MAJOR REASON FOR CONTINUING CHURCH INVOLVEMENT IN STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS. CARDINAL ALSO SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED PRESIDENT PARK A PATRIOT AND THAT CHURCH NOT INTERESTED IN OVERTHROWING ROKG, BUT INSISTED ON MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN PEOPLE AND LEADERS. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT CURRENT PASSIVE U.S. ROLE REGARDING INTERNAL ROK SITUATION COULD LEAD TO GROWING POPULAR DISTRUST OF US AND THUS EVENTUALLY TO SITUATION WHEREBY ALLIANCE AND VALUE OF US MILITARY ROLE IN KOREA COULD ERODE. HOWEVER, HE HAD NO SPECIFIC POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO MAKE TO REP. FRASER, OTHER THAN ASKING FOR CONTINUATION OF US COMMITMENT TO ROK AND EXPRESSING APPRECIATION OF CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN FOR ROK SITUATION AND THE MESSAGE THAT CODEL CARRIED FROM AMERICAN PEOPLE TO KOREA.

4. AT APRIL 2 LUNCH OF CODEL WITH REV. KIM KWAN-SOK, SECRETARY GENERAL OF NCCC-K IN CHOSUN HOTEL, CONGRESSMAN RAISED AGAIN QUESTIONS OF INTERNAL SECURITY AND US POLICY ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN KOREA. REV. KIM REVIEWED ARBITRARINESS OF REGIME IN DEALING WITH OPPOSITION, SURVEILLANCE, AND DIFFICULTY OF CHURCH TO ESTABLISH MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE WITH ROKG. HE CITED NEW ANTI-SLANDER LAW, SCHOOL ISSUES, UNFAIR TRIALS, AND SOCIAL INJUSTICE AS EXAMPLES OF MORAL ISSUES OPPOSED BY CHURCHES. HE TALKED ABOUT NCCC-K SUPPORT FOR PRP PRISONERS AND ARRESTED LAWYER HAN SUNG-HON. REV. KIM ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER REARREST AND PENDING TRIAL OF POET KIM CHI HA. ALLEGEDLY POET HAD CONFESSED THAT HE IS "MARXIST REVOLUTIONARY." CHARGE BASED ON DIARY WRITTEN IN PRISON AND DISCOVERED IN POET'S HOUSE, WAS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 02236 040115Z

DISCUSSED WITH GROUP OF PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADERS BY KCIA 9TH BUREAU CHIEF AT BREAKFAST AT SEJONG HOTEL. BUREAU CHIEF REPORTEDLY ASKED CHURCHES NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING POET, WHO IS WELL KNOWN CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTIVIST. THUS CHURCH SUPPORT ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE FORTHCOMING. FRASER TOLD KIM THAT PRIMIN IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS RE POET KIM'S REARREST, CHARGES, AND

DENIAL OF LAWYER, HAD SAID THAT THIS AFFAIR WAS "NOT BUSINESS OF OUTSIDER."

5. REV. KIM REFUSED TO MAKE PREDICTION ABOUT POLITICAL FUTURE AND REMAINED VAGUE AS TO WHETHER THREAT OF WITHHOLDING AID WOULD BE USEFUL. ONLY WHEN PRESSED HE ADMITTED THAT ON BALANCE SUCH GESTURE MIGHT HELP. REV. KIM LIKE THE CARDINAL ASKED FOR CONTINUING US SUPPORT OF KOREA, BUT WAS UNABLE TO MAKE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING USE OF POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC LEVERAGE TO BRING ABOUT POLITICAL CHANGES. MAIN PLEA WAS FOR US TO SHOW CONTINUING ATTENTION AND INTEREST IN KOREAN DEMOCRATIC AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS.
ERICSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, SECURITY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL02236
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750116-1036
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750498/aaaahqgj.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> sph 971128
Subject: SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS OF CHURCH LEADERS WITH CODEL FRASER
TAGS: OREP, PINS, PINT, KS, (FRASER, DONALD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006